

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No. 09/922,964		Applicant(s) NEUGEBAUER ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven D. Maki		Art Unit 1733	

All Participants:

(1) Steven D. Maki.

(2) Adam Neff.

Date of Interview: 2 December 2005

Type of Interview:

☒ Telephonic

☐ Video Conference

☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, provide a brief description:

Status of Application: _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Time: _____

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:
112

Claims discussed:
32

Prior art documents discussed:
none

Part II.

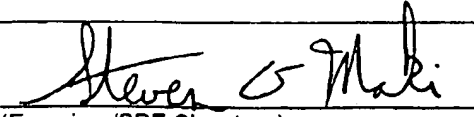
SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

On 12-2-05, examiner faxed proposal to applicant's representative (see Interview Summary Attachment). On 12-8-05, applicant's representative informed examiner that applicant did not accept the proposal.

Part III.

☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.

☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.



 (Examiner/SPE Signature)

 (Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Interview Summary Attachment

Proposal

Amend claim 32 as follows:

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

providing a circumferentially extending tread pattern of a pneumatic tire with at least first and second circumferentially extending ribs, said ribs being located on opposite sides of a mid-circumferential plane of said tire, each rib containing a plurality of ~~symmetrical~~ tread blocks separated by laterally extending grooves, said tread blocks having sipes, said tread blocks having leading and trailing edges sidewalls symmetrical with respect to a first radial plane passing through a midpoint of said tread blocks and through an axis of rotation of the tire;

~~varying, until a residual aligning torque of the pneumatic tire is changed and a desired residual aligning torque is achieved,~~ varying an angle of inclination of the sipes with respect to a second radial plane passing through an outermost surface of the tread block and adjacent to the sipe and through an axis of rotation of the tire to change a residual aligning torque of the pneumatic tire until a desired residual aligning torque is achieved and such that an angled sipe is formed in each of the tread blocks, each angled sipe extending for a sipe lateral width and a radial depth at a constant sipe angle of inclination between 2° and 15° with respect to a the second radial plane passing through an the outermost surface of the tread block and adjacent to the sipe and through an the axis of rotation of the tire;

wherein all sipes within said rib tread blocks on a first side of the mid-circumferential plane extend, ~~at least mostly across the entire width of said rib tread blocks,~~ at a first sipe angle of inclination with respect to said second radial plane for the sipe lateral width and the radial sipe depth, at least one sipe within each tread block on the first side of the mid-circumferential plane extending from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block,

wherein all sipes within said rib tread blocks on a second side of the mid-circumferential plane extend, ~~at least mostly across the entire width of said rib tread blocks,~~ at a second sipe angle of inclination with respect to said second radial plane that is equal to and opposite the first sipe angle for the sipe lateral width and the radial sipe depth, at least one sipe within each tread block on the second side of the mid-circumferential plane extending from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block, and

~~forming the pneumatic tire with the desired residual aligning torque~~ forming a pneumatic tire such that said pneumatic tire has said angled sipes in said tread pattern.

In the specification:

on page 4 line 9, insert --At least one sipe within each tread block extends from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block--.

on line 13 of the amended paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 5 (see amendment filed 2-17-04), after "the leading and trailing" change "edges" to --sidewalls--

Remarks

The proposal for claim 32 to delete --symmetrical-- before "tread blocks" and the change of "edges" to --sidewalls-- clarifies that the sidewalls are symmetrical with respect to the radial plane and makes it clear that proposed claim 32 reads on the shoulder blocks having "edges" as shown in figure 6.

The proposed changes for the varying step and the forming step in claim 32 clarifies what is being varied and makes it clear that the pneumatic tire of the forming step has the claimed tread pattern and the claimed angled sipes.

The insertion in the specification at page 4 is for providing literal antecedent basis for the proposed claim language, which avoids 112 issues regarding "at least mostly". The subject matter of "At least one sipe within each tread block extends from one side of the block and across the center of the block to the other side of the block" is reasonably conveyed by the original disclosure at page 4 lines 6-9, page 6 lines 19-22, figures 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and figure 6.

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REMARKS

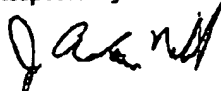
Claims 20-23, 26-30 and 32-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 20-23, 26-30 and 32-33 are amended and claims 24-25 and 36-37 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Maki at the interview held September 8, 2005 are appreciated. The claims have been amended as discussed during the interview.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 20-23, 26-30 and 32-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

J. Adam Neff
Registration No. 41,218

JAO:JMH

Date: September 26, 2005

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